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Trade
in Anon.
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AN
ADDRESS
TO THE
PEOPLE
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE
CONTEST
BETWEEN
GREAT-BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

By *****.

*May Britain be just,
America dependant.*

Anon.

L O N D O N :

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AN
ADDRESS
TO THE
PEOPLE.

Friends, Countrymen and Britons,

A Gentleman told me, about two years ago, at the time of the installation of the Chancellor of Oxford, that he saw a letter from the Bishop of Osnaburgh to his preceptor, then at Oxford, in which he said, *that while he was walking with the King, the preceding day, in the gardens of Kew, his Majesty told him, "that it was the duty of every man, " let his rank of life be what it will, to contribute what he can to the public good," and he was resolved to do every thing in his power for the good of his father's subjects.*

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Satisfied

Satisfied of the truth and justice of the royal precept, and like the young prince, desirous to do every thing in my power for the good of the public, I venture to address those of my countrymen who have not time to read larger well-written tracts, and whose capacities, unequal to examining deeper disquisitions, are more on a level with my own.

From the speeches in parliament ; from the masterly assertor of the rights of Great Britain ; from my own correspondence ; with such powers of reflecting as I am capable of, I mean to lay before you such matter as I think ought to be known by all ranks.

The people of every country acknowledge the superiority of the constitution of Great Britain ; they admire the wisdom which did not leave it in the power of our King, nor in the power of our Lords, nor in the power of our Commons, to make laws : but in the uniting power of the three estates for the preservation of the whole. The goodness of this constitution, gradually improving, has extended it over a vast empire, and long did our fellow subjects on the other side the Atlantic, rejoice in the protection of our laws ;
they

they considered, that as in every government a supreme power must be lodged somewhere, they were happy in thinking that the same power which gave laws and protected on the banks of the Thames, likewise governed and preserved on the banks of Potomac. Cherished by Great Britain, they cultivated their lands, they began and prosecuted a gainful commerce, till wanton with success, like the high-fed courser, they refused the reins which guided them, and thirsting for power as well as wealth, they spurn the hand which fed them. Delighted with their past success and future prospects, smiling on their flowing wealth, *gain* became the deity of their adoration, and indifferent how indirect the ways of obtaining it, like King Richard, they were happy in having possession ; yet thirsting still for more, they reprobated the laws of their country, and for the sake of gain, assisted our enemies with whom we were at open war, for *their protection*. Such an assertion, I do not make from the authority of one or two, or a few, but from well known facts, as universally acknowledged in the West-Indies, as the light of the noon-day sun, where every one knew that multitudes of American

vessels supplied the French and Spaniards with military stores during the war.

I remember how loudly the people of Boston reprobated *the navigation act* during the war ; and since the peace, encouraged by the slackness of the reins of government, and afterwards by the lenity of the king and his ministers, they have thrown off every idea of dependence, and with insolent brayings have kicked down all government, and are now become *rebels*.

They have declared that the British Parliament have no authority over them, except in regulating their commerce, and have advanced some ill-founded, half-weighed, scarcely plausible prettexts, such as their not being represented, while they seem to overlook near seven millions of inhabitants of the British empire not more represented than they are, who quietly submit to the laws ; and that it is common to have numbers of American natives our representatives in Parliament. They say that our claim of supremacy and right of imposing taxes on America is new and an unjust innovation ; but Mr. Mellish's speech in Parliament first taught me to find, that five
acts

acts of Parliament in Charles the Second's reign, two in William's, one in George the First's, and two in George the Second's reign, were passed for establishing the supremacy of Parliament over America. That two acts of Parliament in Charles the Second's reign, two in queen Anne's reign, and two in George the Second's, were passed for imposing taxes on America. These laws were never disputed till now, that they presume to question the controuling power of Parliament.

They say that their ancestors obtained their lands "without any charge to this country;" but the masterly assertor of the rights of Britain, proves from most unquestionable evidence, "that Parliament granted them, for
 "the support of their governments and their
 "own troops, *three millions eight hundred and
 "thirty five thousand nine hundred pounds; like-
 "wise for rewards and encouragements, from
 "February 1756 to April 1770; one million
 "eighty one thousand seven hundred and seventy
 "one pounds; also in bounties on their com-
 "modities, one million six hundred and nine
 "thousand three hundred and forty four pounds,
 "besides other bounties."* Did not Britain
 enter

enter into the two last wars, solely on account of America, and become immersed in an enormous debt to secure peace and prosperity to them ? What has been the grateful return of America for the rivers of blood and heaps of treasure spent on her account, but the raising the poinard, like true parricides, to stab the indulgent parent ?

The Americans, fond of illicit commerce, particularly the northern provinces, and chiefly the people of Boston, on finding that a law had passed in the British Parliament which rendered the smuggling of tea an object not worthy of their pursuit, by its being reduced to so low a price to the consumer, that smuggling was no longer profitable, submitted quietly to the law for a time ; nay even Mr. John Hancock, *now president of the congress, but formerly a most notorious smuggler*, did not object to it ; till the smugglers finding that they could not carry on their contraband trade, to gratify their revenge, inflamed the mob to destroy the East India Company's tea, which was the first ouvert act against the authority of Parliament, and the first avowal of that spirit of independence which led to the present rebellion. From that moment all became anarchy and confusion : the least disapprobation

probation of their conduct was punished by tarring and feathering. Mr. *Inglestone* had the audacity to advise them, in the mildest terms, to consider what they were about: this was a crime too enormous to be punished in so light a manner; he was suspended by the middle, in a deep well, till almost chilled to death by the cold; then, to restore him to his natural heat, they hauled him up, and placed him before his house, which they had set on fire, while they destroyed all his property they could lay hold of. Who then in such a situation would dare to avow his sentiments? One man for daring to declare a willingness to pilot any of his Majesty's ships was brought to a trial; no evidence was found to prove the guilt, till they suborned a negro slave (though the practice of the country forbids taking the evidence of slaves) to swear against him; and though the slave, on seeing the effects likely to ensue, recanted what he had sworn, the man was hanged. Yet, O Britons! these Americans will turn up their eyes, and dare to appeal to the God of Mercy. These monsters of cruelty, while they seem to speak peace and good-will, draw the hostile sword, and compel numbers to appear in array with them, lest their property be destroyed,

stroyed, the persons of their wives and families insulted.

It must be confessed, that they have been misled and encouraged by factious and traitorous abettors in England, who under the mask of patriotism have fed them up with misrepresentations of the sentiments of the people, and falsehoods of the deepest dye. Is it possible that we can find no test of patriotism but an indiscriminate opposition to *every* measure of government?

The Americans, led to believe that they had many friends in England concurring with them in sentiment, and ready to arm in the same cause, were anxious to appear as acting upon the defensive, while they were preparing for every hostile measure ; and conscious that the preparations they were making would soon bring on an opposition which they were resolved to repel by force of arms, they were resolved to be prepared for giving us the earliest intelligence of the consequences, that the first impression might have the most powerful effect ; and accordingly they selected the swiftest of their fast sailing vessels, kept her ready victualled, manned and ballasted, with her sails bent, and her bottom very clean, that she

she might slip her cable, and run off at a moment's warning. Accordingly when the affair at Lexington happened, as soon as they could manufacture the sinful tale, with scarce a semblance of truth, she was dispatched, and arrived long before we had any other intelligence. But what did their providential cares produce, unless a universal conviction, that in their zeal to prove too much, and vouch for one another, they were *perjured*? The *honourable* congress, as they presume to call themselves, likewise have had the insolence to assert the same falsehoods, and to declare that the British troops were the *first* aggressors at Lexington; but, my friends and countrymen, pray attend to the fact.

When military preparations were making at Concord, to carry on hostilities against the King's troops, General Gage, to prevent their coming to open rebellion, by depriving them of the means, was under the necessity of sending a detachment to destroy their magazines. He gave orders that the detachment, consisting of 800 men, should march with all possible secrecy, observe the strictest discipline, and to resent no insult of the Americans, except actual hostilities. These orders were most implicitly obeyed, and not one loaded

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musquet

musquet was in the whole detachment, except in the hands of fifty marines, who were the advanced guard, when the Americans fired upon them ; and that this is the fact, every one of the detachment, officers and soldiers, are ready most solemnly to swear. But my countrymen, this is not all, hearken to the still more dreadful tale, and shudder at the horrid cruelties of these Americans, who with affected sanctity dare to offer their insolent appeal to the heavenly throne ; a tale so shocking to humanity, that every being, possessing but one drop of the milk of human kindness in their nature, would wish it were possible to be false : but alas ! 'tis not ; it is not possible ! the evidence is most undoubted.

“ The soldiers who fell by the first fire of
 “ the rebels were found scalped, when the de-
 “ tachment returned from Concord to Lex-
 “ ington-bridge. Two soldiers who lay
 “ wounded on the field, and had been scalped
 “ by the savage provincials, were still breath-
 “ ing : they appeared, by the traces of blood,
 “ to have rolled, in the agonies of this hor-
 “ rid species of death, several yards from
 “ the place where they had been scalped.
 “ Near these unfortunate men, another ob-
 “ ject presented itself. A soldier who had
 been

“ been slightly wounded, appeared with his
 “ eyes torn out of the sockets, by the barba-
 “ rous mode of *googing*, a word and prac-
 “ tice peculiar to the Americans. Huma-
 “ nity forbids us to dwell longer on this
 “ scene of horror. The rebels, to break the
 “ force of accusation, began to recriminate.
 “ They laid several instances of wanton cru-
 “ elty to the charge of the troops; yet no-
 “ thing is better ascertained, than that not
 “ one of the soldiers ever quitted the road,
 “ either upon their march or return from
 “ Concord.”

The congress say, that the troops going to
 Concord was “ a wanton assault :” but the
 truth is, the march of the troops had only
 hastened the execution of the plan of rebel-
 lion settled before in the secret councils of
 the provincial congress, after being provided
 with troops, arms, ammunition, &c.

The congress finding how far they had suc-
 ceeded in enflaming the minds of the rabble,
 and elevated with the prospect of indepen-
 dence, while they put on the semblance of
 praying his Majesty for peace, they dreaded
 nothing so much as an accommodation; and
 lest the approaches made by Parliament should

bring about so desirable an end, they instantly shifted their ground, like their wilely ancestors of the last century, and rose in their demands, so as to put all hopes of treating with them at an end. They had been long resolved to wield the sword with all their might.

They next make a boast of their *unanimity*, their *internal* resources for carrying on a war, and say, that *foreign assistance* is attainable. As to their unanimity, I deny its being so; for of my own personal knowledge, there are some gentlemen who have subscribed their associations, and who appear in arms daily with the rebels, who would chearfully relinquish half their property, to escape from rebel tyranny with the remaining half, to this land of freedom. Men of property must be enemies to confusion and anarchy.

As to their *internal* resources, what are they? Some of their provinces want even grain, though others have it in superabundance; but what can they do with the surplus, when all means of carrying on commerce are at an end? They have no specie, nor can they supply their armies with tents, arms, ammunition, or cloathing. Will the French; will the Spaniards; will the gold idolators, the

the Dutch, accept of *pasteboard* dollars, in payment for these things? A child will tell them no! Their ports are shut up, and our ships of war now about to make lawful prize of all their shipping, it is to be hoped, will not even leave them a boat to catch a mackerel. They have lost their corn and rice trade, which brought annually about *one million five hundred thousand pounds* to America; our West-India Island trade, which brought nearly *one million* annually to America; they have lost their fishery, an article too great for computation; and they have lost their exportation to Great-Britain, of commodities which would not have answered in any other market, had the sea remained open to their navigation.

What but infatuation could make them hope for foreign aid! Can they suppose, that the nations, possessing colonies in their nearest neighbourhood, will expose them to be first swallowed by a power who have gained in a contest with Great-Britain?

The congress at last declare, “ that as they
 “ have taken up arms, they will not lay them
 “ down, till hostilities shall cease on the part
 “ of Great-Britain:” that is to say, withdraw
 your armies, recall your fleets, and you may
 have

have peace from the Americans ; for, as “ they fight not for conquest,” they do not yet mean to transfer hostilities into the heart of these kingdoms.

Now, my friends and countrymen, you see to what the Americans are arrived ; you see what you owe to mock patriots at home, who have degraded the strength, power, and authority of Great-Britain, to exalt America on the ruins ; a set of men who lay the honour, dignity, and reputation of their country under the feet of her rebellious subjects, and have the consummate effrontery to declare in their petulant declamations, that they speak the sentiments of the people ; but you will doubtless draw a reasonable conclusion from the following anecdote.

At the time that the Boston port-bill took place, our most worthy patriots, calling themselves the Constitutional Society, assembled ; and making a parade of hypocritical sorrow for the suffering saints of Boston, voted them one hundred pounds, to be transmitted by their treasurer to Dr. Franklyn, for the use of the sufferers ; which resolution was for some time most pompously announced in the newspapers ; but I pray you do not laugh, my friends,

friends, the treasury chest of the society was quite empty, and not one farthing could be sent to the distressed saints. This you are desired to accept on the authority of one of the members, Mr. Wilkes.

On the other hand, a subscription was opened for the relief of the soldiers, the distressed widows and orphans of our troops in America, and the sum, in a short time, amounted to *fifteen thousand pounds*, and, I hope, will soon be double that amount. From what part of this anecdote ought we to judge of the sentiments of the people?

The Americans confess, "that their internal resources are great;" they alledge, that they are capable of supporting a rebellion against the mother-country: yet they justify that rebellion by the demand made by the mother-country, for their bearing a part of their *own* future expences.

The *former* expences of America have drawn from Great-Britain, since the accession of the House of Hanover to the throne of these kingdoms, as may be seen by authentic estimates, no less a sum than *thirty-four millions six hundred and ninety-seven thousand one hundred and*

and forty-two pounds ten shillings and ten pence halfpenny.

If we add to this the expences of the two last wars, which we entered into solely on the account of America, the most moderate computation, cannot be less than *a hundred and fifty millions*. What is the grateful return that America makes for all this waste of treasure, but fawning hypocritical petitions, intermixed with defiance, presented by one hand, while the other grasps the pointed dagger, already lifted up to stab the too indulgent parent?

They and their iniquitous abettors have boasted much of their important commerce, but it is no unreasonable conjecture, that the money expended by this nation upon America for the *protection of her* inhabitants, and the *encouragement of her* commerce, would have been more than sufficient to purchase all the manufactures ever exported from Great-Britain to the colonies now in rebellion, without including what has been spent by us in other parts of the world during the two last (truly American) wars.

They likewise talk much of the revenue arising from their commodities, but I am persuaded

suaded that the whole does not amount to half the annual income of many private gentlemen in this country.

We must be convinced that the governing power necessary in every civil society, ought to have the right of imposing taxes on all the subjects of the empire. We see that that power in this country exerted these rights over the colonies by the laws which were begun to be passed at the time of their first existence, and continued down to the present time. We must be convinced that if these laws never existed, they ought now to be introduced, and *that* part of the empire obliged to bear a part of the burthen contracted on their account ; but rather than submit to the justice of this claim, a majority of delegates in the congress did vote America *independent*, and deaf to all reasoning they appeal only to the sword.

Will you then, my *friends, countrymen, and Britons*, look tamely on and see this great empire torn in pieces and dismembered by unbridled faction at home, and unprovoked rebellion abroad ? Forbid it Heaven ! Forbid it reason and common sense. Let even compassion for misled Americans forbid it They, like too many of ourselves, have become the

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dupes

dupes of designing men, who care not by what ladder they can climb to power, if they do but succeed. Dr. Franklyn to be sure is a man of great natural parts, of uncommon mental powers ; but of profound cunning, and most boundless ambition. Let us admire him as a philosopher; but though he has misled many of the Americans, let him not with his electrical conductors torpify our senses, and deprive us of our reason. Let the British lion now be roused, or let him never roar again. If you will tamely bear this insult, pluck out his fangs, tear off his claws, cut off his lashing tail and shaggy mane, and lay them on the broad tail of the beaver, to gallop to his American hole, and leave your lion to become the contemptible laughing-stock of deriding nations, for the vile ass has dared to kick up his heels against him.

Is all your spirit fled with your expelled fellows, or is there still some of that blood circulating in your veins which accompanied the Edwards to Cressy, and Henry to Agincourt ? Do none of these men still live, who, in the present reign, hurled the British thunder, like the fires of the erring comet, to strike the utmost recesses of the earth with dismay ? I cannot doubt of either. Step forth then,

my

my friends, and unanimously employ such powers as ye possess for the preservation of the honour and dignity of your name as Britons.

Humanity cries aloud for the full exertion of a force without a doubt sufficient to end the controversy, for a protracted civil war, adds dreadfully to the calamity. Then, when you have humbled your rebellious subjects to the dust ; when you have made them sensible of their disobedience ; when they shall have prostrated themselves before God and declared their penitence for unprovoked perjuries ; when they shall have prostrated themselves before Britain, and declared their sorrow for their savage cruelties to her sons ; when they shall have begged pardon of their insulted countrymen ; when they shall be no longer rebels, but obedient subjects ; then, let the jewel **MERCY** shine forth with its usual fire, then will our gracious sovereign, during whose reign it has beamed with the brightest lustre, receive them like penitent children who have kissed the rod, and admit them to all the freedom of the obedient subjects of Great Britain.

Then

Then probably they may be allowed to regulate their internal government, but be obliged to contribute their share, in regulated established proportion, for the general demands of the empire, when all the world must say, **THAT GREAT BRITAIN IS JUST AND AMERICA DEPENDENT.**



F I N I S.

